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REMARKS

Applicant's attorney would like to thank Examiner M. Tremblay for the courtesies of an interview on September 20; and to Supervisory Patent Examiner V. Millin for the interviews earlier that week.

At the interview with Examiner Tremblay no claims were indicated as being allowable.

In the present amendment, two claim have been canceled, namely, claims 27 and 35. The subject matter of claim 27 has been placed into independent claim 26. The other amendments to the claims that are amended herein are to remove formal objections, §112 objections, concerning the phrase "and/or" and to correct a typographical mistake. There are no substantive changes in any of the claims so amended. Thus, the present amendment After Final reduces the total number of claims and there are no new issues presented in the claims. If there are any remaining §112 issues, they should be resolvable by a telephone call.

All claims stand rejected on a single reference, Raven, Ref. G, under §102 or §103. It is respectfully submitted that the examiner misunderstands the clear teaching of Raven.

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Raven does not teach the concrete security solution

of applicant's invention. As pointed out in applicant's

claim 41, data representing gambling operations are stored

sequentially in parallel in the gambling card memory and

in the database of the central processing unit with

successive balances of value units debited and credited

with the card. Independent claim 1, the parent of claim

41, updates date between the card and the database of the

central processing unit at least twice during each use of

the card in a gambling playing session and checks that the

data corresponds. Raven does not have this. The teaching

of Raven is to update or transmit the balance from the

card to the central data processor at the complete end of

a gambling session, i.e., when the card is removed from

the gambling machine card reader. Let me repeat that.

Raven's teaching is to transfer a credit amount, which

includes debits and credits incurred during game play, to

said card when said card is removed from said card reader.

Claim 26 is an independent claim and has been amended

to include the features of its dependent claim 27. The

feature of exchanging and checking for each change of

value of the cards is nowhere shown or suggested in Raven.

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I will not describe here what Raven has, but Raven does
not have these features. Thus, there is no §102
anticipation of claim 26. There is no §103 anticipation
of claim 26.

Claim 28 is dependent on claim 26. It defines in
more detail some of the method steps to secure a better
security. These additional steps are nowhere shown or
suggested in Raven.

Independent claim 29, amended for form, and now in
Jepsom format, defines aspects of the checking step not
shown or suggested in the Raven reference.

Claims 31, 32, 33, 34 and 36 are addressed to
calculating a certificate. There is no teaching shown or
suggested in Raven of using certificates when transmitting
data between the cards or gambling machines and the
central processing unit. Certificates are deep
encryption. Difficult, if not impossible, to break. The
level of security provided in these dependent claims has
not been used previously in any method of a gambling
machine. Raven does not suggest it. The Office letter
relies upon "official notice" citing a case from 1942.
Applicant's attorney is not aware of any official notice
involving certificates and the use of certificates in this

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gambling machine environment, and as defined in these
dependent claims in the environment of the parent claims.

The Office letter says that cryptography, DES, and
certificates are subject to official notice and to secure
financial transactions. It is respectfully submitted that
there is no official notice on the point of certificates
as used in applicant's invention and as claimed here. For
example, to generate certificates for each change of value
of the card and exchanging it with the central data
processor.

Claim 36 is an independent claim. It has been
amended herein to remove the §112 objection to the phrase
"and/or" and to correct a typographical error in changing
the word "is" to -- in --. There are no other changes in
the claim and it thus presents no new issues. Claim 36 is
directed to a system. The claim, amongst other things, is
distinguishable over Raven in that the database and the
cards store data in parallel as the games progress. This
is not what is taught in Raven where data is transmitted
to the central data processor only when the card is
removed from the card reader. There is nothing in
parallel. There are other features in the claim, but that
should clearly distinguish over Raven.

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Claim 37 is dependent and defines the authentication certificate for the exchange of data. Raven is completely silent on using authentication certificates.

Dependent claim 38 further defines the features of the concrete security solution of applicant's invention.

Claim 39 has been rewritten in Jepsom form and avoids the alternatives "and/or."

Claim 40 makes explicit that the parallel storage is updated for each change of value in the card, a feature completely contrary to the teaching of Raven.

The last claim 41 is dependent on claim 1 and this is discussed above. It is also dependent on claim 26. This makes explicit the features which are nowhere shown or suggested in Raven.

In summary, substantively the claims remaining are all allowable over the applied reference Raven. There appears to be an inappropriate application in an "official notice." First, it is not applicable and, second, it is inappropriate for certification in the context of this application. Procedurally, the present amendment reduces the total number of claims; presents no new issues (the amendments to the claims are for §112 objections or to correct obvious typing mistakes); and thus the amendment

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should be entered After Final. For the reasons set forth

above, it is believed the application is in a condition

for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is courteously

solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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1   1.   (Twice Amended)   Electronically secured method

2   for monitoring transfers of value units between a

3   plurality of gambling machine <u>cards</u> and a plurality of

4   gambling machines, each machine being connected to a

5   transcriber of data onto a gambling card, the machines

6   being connected in a secured network with a central

7   processing unit by link means, the method having the

8   following steps, during a gambling operation:

9   - reading data stored in a gambling card,

10   particularly an identification number (Id) of the card

11   (CJ1) and data representing the value units debited and

12   credited initially and during the preceding gambling

13   operations, characterized by the following steps:

14   - electronically securing and exchanging data between

15   the machine and a database of the central processing unit

16   by means linking the secured network, particularly data

17   representing the balance (S) of the value units and the

18   identification number of the card; and

19   - updating data at least twice during each use of the

20   card in a gambling playing session and then checking that

21   the data stored in the gambling card correspond to the

22   data in the database in order to monitor the integrity of

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23   a system constituted by such a card, such a machine, the

24   network, and the central processing unit.

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(Amended.)

1   26. A method for monitoring transfers of value units between a

2   plurality of gambling cards and a plurality of gambling machines,

3   each machine being connected to a transcriber of data onto a gambling

4   card, the machines being connected in a [second] secured network with a

5   central processing unit comprising the steps of, during a gambling

6   operation:

7   (a)   - reading data stored in a gambling card, particularly an

8   identification number of the card and/or data representing the value

9   units debited and/or credited during the preceding gambling

10 operations,

11   (b)   - electronically securing and exchanging data between the

12 machine and a database of the central processing unit by the secured

13 network, particularly data representing the balance of the value

14 units and/or the identification number of the card; and

15   (c) - checking that the data stored in the gambling card

16 corresponds to the data in the database in order to monitor the

17 integrity of a system constituted by such a card, such a machine, the

18 network, and the central processing unit, and

        (d) ———

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~~27.   The method of Claim 26~~ wherein said exchanging and

checking steps are performed for each change of value of the cards.

      27. Cancel

      28. Method according to Claim 26, comprising the step of

preliminary to the gambling operations, entering, in the database of

the central processing unit and in memory of the gambling cards, data

representing an initial balance of value units in a preliminary card-

loading operation; and during a gambling operation entering, in the

database of the central processing unit, data representing the

balances of value units in gambling cards, and said checking step

comprising checking the data representing the balances of the value

units read from the gambling cards against the data read from the

database of the central processing unit.

      (Amended)
      29. Method according to Claim 28, wherein said checking step comprises
of performing, said checking step in any of
~~[is performed in]~~ said terminals, ~~(and/or)~~ said cards, ~~(and/or)~~ said

transcribers, and~~/or~~ said central processing unit.

      30. Method according to Claim 26 or 28, wherein said checking

step comprises checking the identification number of gambling card

with an identification encryption key stored in the database of the

central processing unit.

      31. Method according to Claim 26 or 28, comprising storing

secret data in each card, and also storing said secret data for each

card in said database, calculating an authentication certificate (C1)

from the secret data.

      32. Method according to Claim 31, wherein said checking step

comprises checking that the authentication certificates calculated by

the card corresponds to the authentication certificate calculated

from the database.

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33. Method according to Claim 26, comprising distributed network security means, the method having the following additional steps:

- having a first security means to calculate a first authentication certificate (C) from secret data in memory of the first security means, and

- having a second security means to calculate a second authentication certificate from secret data in memory of the second security means, and

- checking that the first authentication certificate calculated by the first security means of the network corresponds to the second authentication certificate calculated by the second security means.

34. Method according to Claim 26, wherein said exchanging data between machine and database of central processing unit are accompanied by an authentication certificate.

~~35. Method according to claim 33 wherein the security means are associated with each transcriber that transcribes data onto a gambling card and/or with the gambling machines, and/or with the network link means, and/or the central processing unit (1) to monitor the integrity of the network.~~

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(Amended)

1   36. A secure gambling system for monitoring transfers of value

2   units comprising a plurality of gambling cards, and a plurality of

3   gambling machines, each machine being provided with a transcriber

4   able to debit value units of a gambling card, the machines being

5   connected in a secured network with a central processing unit by link

6   means, each gambling card stores data representing gambling

7   operations conducted therewith, data identifying the card and data

8   representing the balance of the value units debited and/or credited

9   during previous gambling operations, the central processing unit has

10   a database that is parallel stores the data as in the cards

11   representing gambling operations carried out, card identification and

12   data representing the balances of the value units debited and/or

13   credited during previous gambling operations, the means for

14   monitoring and checking that, for an identified card, the database

15   data and the card data correspond, particularly that the data

16   representing the value unit balance correspond, thereby verifying the

17   integrity of the system.

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37. Secured system according to Claim 36, wherein each gambling card calculates an authentication certificate from the secret data stored in the memory of card.

38. Secured system according to Claim 37, additional comprising a security module that calculates an authentication certificate from the secret data corresponding to the cards stored in the memory of the module, and in that the monitoring means (MS0) checks that the authentication certificates calculated by the security module corresponds to the corresponding authentication certificates calculated by the gambling cards or by another security module.

39. Secured system according to Claim 38, wherein the security module is disposed in the transcriber, ~~and/or in a~~ a location consisting of The start of gambling machine (200), ~~and/or in~~ the network link, and ~~/or~~ The central processing unit (1).

40. The system according to claim 36, wherein said parallel storage is updated for each change of value in said cards.

41. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 or [27] 26 wherein said data representing gambling operations are stored sequentially in parallel in the gambling card memory and in the database with successive balances of value units debited and credited with the card.